(c) whether it is a fact that hardships are being faced in its impelementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the State where such law has not been formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. State/UT Governments have been last addressed on 11-1-2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. In order to ensure speedy implementation of the Act, this Ministry has conveyed the major actionable points alongwith timelines to the State/UT Governments for initiating follow up action.

(c) and (d) As in all schemes, operational problems are sometimes being faced in the implementation of the Act but solutions are being found by the State administration.

(e) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Fund for tribals welfare in Orissa

3681. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to Orissa for tribal welfare, education and health care from 2004 to 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fund allocated could not be utilized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated to the State of Orissa for tribal welfare, education and health care from 2004—07 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Funds allocated
2004-05	10211.13
2005-06	9303.77
2006-07	11547.59

The State Governments/UT Administrations are expected to utilize funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs within twelve months from the date of sanction. During the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the Government of Orissa has reported utilization of around 96% of the funds released during the said period.